

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, and 11-17 are active in this application. Claims 1-3, 7, and 8 are amended, and Claims 11-17 are added by the present amendment. Furthermore, Claims 5, 6, 9, and 10 stand withdrawn in response to a previous Restriction Requirement.

Amendments to the claims and new claims find support in the application as originally filed, at least at Applicants' Figures 1, 2, and 14, and in the specification at page 8, lines 12-16, page 9, lines 1-11, and page 42, lines 2-7. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action dated January 21, 2009, Claims 2 and 3 were objected to, Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,299,661 to Pramanik et al. (herein "Pramanik") in view of U.S. publication 2004/0079591 to Mueller and U.S. Patent 5,183,979 to Sheridan et al. (herein "Sheridan"); and Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Pramanik, Mueller, Sheridan and U.S. Patent 6,360,847 to Okada et al. (herein "Okada").

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy of an interview with Examiner Chan and Supervisory Patent Examiner Patel on February 26, 2009. During the interview, rejections in the Office Action and differences between the claimed invention and references in the Office Action were discussed. Comments and claim amendments discussed during the interview are reiterated below.

Regarding the claim objection, Claims 2 and 3 are amended to remove terminology identified in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claim 7 is amended to depend from Claim 4 and thereby provide proper antecedent support for the claimed governor sheave. Therefore, it is respectfully requested the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, also be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Pramanik, Mueller, and Sheridan.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an emergency stop system for an elevator that includes, in part, a detection portion for detecting a speed and a position of a car, and a control portion having a storage portion that stores, in correspondence with the position of the car, an overspeed setting level set to be a value larger than the speed of the car during normal operation. The overspeed setting level progressively varies based on a distance between a position of the car and a service floor.

As discussed during the interview, Pramanik, Mueller, and Sheridan fail to teach or suggest each of the features of amended Claim 1.

Mueller Fig. 4 shows a distance-speed diagram for a multistage safety unit 1 or 100 in which a car moves according to the speed of the curved line, and a first fixed limiting speed BG1 is monitored by a safety device at sensor position P1. Furthermore, Mueller indicates that a second fixed limiting speed BG2 is monitored at a position P2.¹ In addition, Mueller indicates that points P0 and P1 may be supplemented by additional intermediate destination points for other stops in the shaft,² and Mueller indicates that an intelligent comparator device keeps in memory nominal speed values for distances and compares them with actual values.³ Accordingly, as discussed during the interview, Mueller fails to teach or suggest that an overspeed setting level “progressively varies based on a distance between the position of the

¹ Mueller at Fig. 4 and paragraph [0073].

² Mueller at paragraph [0049].

³ Mueller at paragraph [0053].

car and the service floor,” as recited in amended Claim 1. Furthermore, as discussed during the interview, Pramanik and Sheridan also fail to teach or suggest that feature.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In addition, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Pramanik, Mueller, Sheridan and Okada.

Claim 8 depends from Claim 1, which as discussed above is believed to patentably define over Pramanik, Mueller, and Sheridan. Furthermore, as discussed during the interview, Okada also fails to teach or suggest the claimed features lacking in the disclosures of Pramanik, Mueller, and Sheridan. Therefore, it is respectfully requested the rejection of Claim 8 be withdrawn at least for that reason.

In addition, as discussed during the interview, Okada also fails to teach or suggest the features of Claim 8.

According to Okada, a centrifugal force causes a rotational displacement of fly weights 26 against the urging force of a balance spring 27, and the rotational displacement of the fly weights 26 causes an actuating member 29 to press an actuating assembly 212 of a stop switch 211 which activates the stop switch 211 to cut off power of a driving unit of the elevator system so as to stop the ascending/descending member.⁴ However, Okada is silent regarding a latch that is engaged with a ratchet gear by an electromagnetic actuator. Furthermore, as discussed during the interview, Okada fails to teach or suggest a latch capable of coming into engagement with a ratchet gear upon activation of an electromagnetic actuator. Furthermore, as discussed during the interview, Mueller, Sheridan, and Pramanik also fail to teach or suggest those features.

⁴ Okada at column 3, lines 3-8.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Pramanik, Mueller, Sheridan and Okada, whether taken individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest “a latch operating in an interlocking relation with the pressing member and capable of coming into engagement with the ratchet gear upon activation of the electromagnetic actuator; and when the latch is engaged with the ratchet gear by the electromagnetic actuator, the pressing member is displaced due to a rotation force of the ratchet gear to be pressed against the governor sheave through the governor rope,” as recited in Claim 8.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 8 patentably defines over Pramanik, Mueller, Sheridan and Okada for that distinct reason in addition to the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also be withdrawn.

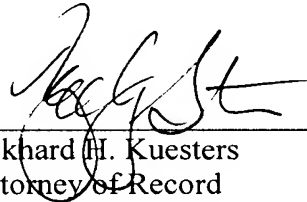
Claims 11-17 are added to recite additional features of an emergency stop system for an elevator that are not taught or suggested by the references in the Office Action, as discussed during the interview. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that added Claims 11-17 also patentably define over the references in the Office Action for reasons distinct from the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present Amendment, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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